RESEARCH-Types of Feminism

TYPES OF FEMINISM: GLOSSARY TABLE

Listed in alphabetical order. Based on

- Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *Wisdom Ways: Introducing Feminist Biblical Interpretation*, Chapter 2
- Feminist Standpoint Theory, Wikipedia
- Kang, et al. "Third Wave Feminism"

Term	Definition
Complementarity Feminism	Assumes wo/men and men have essentially different natures that complement each other. Masculine-feminine dualism as corresponding and mutually balancing. Re-inscribes heterosexism and "White Lady" discourse. (ESF, 60)
Critical Liberationist Feminism	Offspring of abolitionist, civil rights, radical gay, socialist student, and anti-colonialist movements. Celebrates diversity while forging alliances in liberation struggles until all wo/men achieve full citizenship. Uses ekklesia of wo/men to conceptualize struggles against multiplicative intersecting domination structures (class, race, gender, heterosexuality, ethnic nationalism). (ESF, 63-4)
Ecofeminism	Makes connections between natural world destruction and wo/men's oppression. All living things form one sacred Body in evolutionary creative process. The feminine is energy or power in all living things, not strictly identified with female. (ESF, 62)
Equal Rights/Liberal Feminism	Fights for wo/men's rights in all institutions. Struggles to improve wo/men's situation while recognizing equal rights cannot be won without changing sexist institutions and power relations. (ESF, 60)
Gender Feminism (Difference Feminism)	Focuses on cultural and social gender constructions rather than wo/men. Asserts sex/gender is culturally constructed system of domination, not based on natural biological differences. Requires studying both genders and their reconstructions. (ESF, 61)
Gynecentric/Radical Feminism	Believes essential feminine modes of perception create special female culture. Assumes wo/men's ways of knowing make them naturally better human beings. Locates oppression's roots primarily in male domination. (ESF, 60)
International Feminism	Embodied by UN Conferences on Wo/men (Mexico City 1975, Copenhagen 1980, Nairobi 1985, Beijing 1995) and Cairo population conference (1994). Forums for grassroots and NGOs to debate wo/men's equality and well-being. International movements for sharing, debating, coalition building increasingly indispensable as globalization increases exploitation. (ESF, 63)
Marxist/Materialist Feminism	Describes material bases of wo/men's subjugation and relationship between production modes and wo/men's status. Expands beyond Marxist dual-system theory to include multiple domination processes. Analyzes both reproduction and production. Requires egalitarian reordering of labor and dismantling oppressive structures. (ESF, 61-2)
Maternal Feminism	Promotes virtues of nurturing, preservation, growth, acceptance, and pacifism developed through mothering. Challenges autonomous individualism with virtue ethics based on relational capacities. Maternal thinking available to all wo/men, not just mothers. (ESF, 61)
Mujerista (Standpoint)	Latina feminist theologians' term announcing cultural and religious distinctiveness. Liberative praxis: reflective action with liberation goal. Enablement process for Latina wo/men, developing moral agency, clarifying importance and value of who they are, think, and do. (ESF, 55)

Term	Definition
Postbiblical Feminism	Rejects biblical religions as totally sexist and oppressive. Rediscovers Goddess and Her spirituality nourishing connectedness and ecological awareness. Goddess births creation from Her body; creation participates in Her divinity. Inspires vision of life as organic and sacred wholeness. (ESF, 63)
Postcolonial Feminism	Intensifies differences/contextual feminisms by examining Western imperialism and colonialism's impact on wo/men's identity and location. Investigates empire-discourse interconnections. Negotiates solidarity between different postcolonial formations. Uses dual-system analysis (patriarchy and imperialism as parallel systems). (ESF, 62-3)
Postmodern Feminism	Questions Enlightenment beliefs. Encourages tolerating ambivalence, ambiguity, multiplicity, instability, complexity. Articulates diversity and contradictions by denying subject of discourse or truth is singular. Combined with postcolonial feminism, sometimes theorized as postfeminism. (ESF, 62)
Queer Feminism	Reclaimed derogatory term to distance from white, middle-class gay/lesbian rights movement. Develops radical political perspectives and inclusive sexual cultures welcoming transgender, gender non-conforming people, and people of color. Motivated by intersectional critique of hierarchies within sexual liberation movements. Insists "queer" remain open-ended, never fixed to one meaning. (Kang)
Relationality Feminism	Develops philosophical/social ontology of self and ethics of mutuality. Argues wo/men socially molded to perform relational tasks serving elite men due to patriarchal power relations, not nature. Wo/men more sensitive to connections due to social positioning. (ESF, 61)
Religious Feminism	Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Goddess, Buddhist, American Indian, Hindu, Indigenous, Aboriginal, or Dalit feminisms. Comprehends "secular" and "religious" feminists as different locations, not binary. Focuses on positive and negative presence of religion in wo/men's lives as both domination force and liberation resource. (ESF, 63)
Standpoint Feminism	Theory that women's subordinated social position provides epistemic advantage—a different and potentially more complete understanding of reality than dominant male perspectives. A standpoint is achieved through collective political struggle, not merely occupied by virtue of identity. Can provide "strong objectivity" in knowledge production. (Standpoint Feminism. Wikipedia.)
Third World/Differences Feminism	Recognizes differences of race, class, ethnicity, culture, sexuality, religion—not just gender. Stresses materiality of differences, not just discursivity. Emphasizes Eurocentric feminism mistakenly generalized white middle-class experience to all wo/men. Multiple structures of domination determine lives differently. (ESF, 62)
Womanist (Standpoint)	Alice Walker's term for feminist of color "committed to survival and wholeness of entire people, male and female." African American feminist claiming roots in black history, religion, culture. Power of self-definition and self-naming. Permits defining themselves, affirming traditions and embodiment. Taps historical liberation capability of black wo/men. (ESF, 55)